

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 168832
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 FEA-01 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 INR-07
IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-05 OES-07
DODE-00 ERDA-05 SP-02 PM-05 AID-05 /098 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/PAB:RKMCKEE:DD
APPROVED BY NEA:ADUBS
NEA/PAB:PWLANDE
T:EMCGAFFIGAN (SUBS)
-----123622 200527Z /15
R 200052Z JUL 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

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E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:MNUC,PINT, PK, US

SUBJECT:NUCLEAR FUEL REPROCESSING: OPPOSITION APPROACH TO
DEPARTMENT

1. ON JULY 19, AFZAL KHAN, BROTHER OF PROMINENT PAKISTAN
NATIONAL ALLIANCE (PNA) LEADER ASGHAR KHAN, CALLED THE DE-
PARTMENT (NEA/PAB). HE NOTED THAT THE NUCLEAR FUEL REPRO-
CESSING QUESTION WAS LIKELY TO BE A MAJOR ISSUE IN THE COM-
ING ELECTION CAMPAIGN IN PAKISTAN. HE LAMENTED THAT THE PNA
COULD COMMAND LITTLE TECHNICAL OR POLITICAL EXPERTISE ON
THIS QUESTION. ITS ONLY TECHNICALLY QUALIFIED SOURCE WAS
A PAKISTANI PHYSICIST NAMED NAQVI, WHO HAD PLAYED A ROLE IN
NEGOTIATING THE REPROCESSING PLANT CONTRACT IN PARIS. HE HAD
LATER PARTED WAYS WITH THE GOVERNMENT, ARGUING THAT THERE
WAS NO POINT IN CONSTRUCTING A REPROCESSING PLANT UNLESS
THE OBJECTIVE WAS A NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE CAPABILITY, AND SUG-
GESTING ALTERNATIVE WAYS OF MEETING PAKISTAN'S ENERGY RE-
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QUIREMENTS. HE IS NOW IN PRIVATE EMPLOY IN TORONTO. ON THE
POLITICAL SIDE, KHAN POINTED OUT, THE INITIATIVE RESTED EN-
TIRELY WITH FORMER PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO. ONLY HE KNOWS THE
HISTORY OF DISCUSSIONS WITH THE US, FRANCE, AND OTHERS.

2. KHAN ASKED WHETHER THE DEPARTMENT COULD PROVIDE AT LEAST
SOME TECHNICAL BACKGROUND ON REPROCESSING AND ALTERNATIVES

TO IT FOR PNA USE. IF NOT, HE INDICATED, THE PNA WOULD

HAVE TO TAKE "AS HARD A LINE AS BHUTTO" ON REPROCESSING
BUT PERHAPS COULD "FALL BACK LATER ON".

3. AFTER CONSULTATIONS, AN NEA/PAB OFFICER CALLED KHAN
BACK TO SAY THAT IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR THE DEPART-
MENT TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON PREVIOUS INTER-GOVERNMENTAL
TALKS TO NON-GOVERNMENTAL OFFICIALS, OR BECOME INVOLVED
IN PROVIDING INFORMATION FOR PARTISAN DEBATE. HE DECLINED
TO DISCUSS THE PNA POSITIOW ON NUCLEAR MATTERS BUT
STRESSED THAT THIS BILATERAL ANDMULTILATERALISSUE WOULD
HAVE TO BE ADDRESSED BY WHATEVER GOVERNMENT WAS FORMED
AFTER THE OCTOBER ELECTIONS. KHAN REPLIED THAT HE UNDER-
STOOD THE PROPRIETY OF THE US DECISION. HE RECALLED THAT
WHEN HE VISITED ASGHAR KHAN EARLIER THIS YEAR, HIS BROTHER
HAD EXPRESSED OPPOSITION TO THE REPROCESSING PROJECT ON THE
GROUNOS THAT PAKISTAN COULD NOT AFFORD TO BUILD THE PLANT,
CREATE A "USELESS" NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE CAPABILITY, OR OFFEND
A MAJOR AID DONOR LIKE THE US.
VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NUCLEAR FUELS, NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770737/aaaabgbs.tel
Line Count: 83
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Litigation Codes:
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Message ID: f9160467-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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Retention: 0
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Review Date: 28-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1802469
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NUCLEAR FUEL REPROCESSING: OPPOSITION APPROACH TO DEPARTMENT
TAGS: MNUC, PINT, PK, US
To: ISLAMABAD
Type: TE
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